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OUTGOING TELEGRAM

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ORIGIN INM-06

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 AID-07 INR-10 CIAE-00 IO-15 NSC-01
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TO AMEMBASSY LIMA
INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: SNAR
SUBJECT: CHANGES IN BOLIVIAN NARCOTICS LAW

REFERENCE: STATE 63746

1. LOU - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. AS EMBASSY AWARE, INM HAD HAD DIFFICULTIES WITH CERTAIN ASPECTS OF NEW BOLIVIAN NARCOTICS LAW. AT SAME TIME, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT PERUVIANS HAVE BEEN LOOKING AT THE LAW AS ONE SOURCE OF IDEAS FOR PROPOSED NEW NARCOTICS CONTROL LEGISLATION OF THEIR OWN. DURING RECENT VISIT TO BOLIVIA, INM ASSISTANT SECRETARY DICARLO DISCUSSED GOB LAW WITH VARIOUS HIGH OFFICIALS AND OBTAINED COMMITMENT TO AMEND LAW IN SEVERAL WAYS. FOR EMBASSY'S INFO AND POSSIBLE USE (REFTEL), SUMMARY OF OUR CONCERNS AND BOLIVIAN UNDERTAKINGS TO AMEND LAW FOLLOWS.

3. ALL REFERENCES TO LICIT OR LEGAL COCA CULTIVATION WILL BE ELIMINATED, SINCE IN VIEW OF BOLIVIA'S INTERNATIONAL TREATY COMMITMENTS THAT CONCEPT IS AN UNACCEPTABLE BASE FOR US TO BUILD A COOPERATIVE COCA REDUCTION ACTIVITY UPON. NEW BOLIVIAN SYSTEM OF REGISTRATION (JUST COMPLETED) WILL NOT BE AFFECTED, BUT COCA REGISTERED WILL NOT BE REFERRED TO AS "LEGAL" NOR WILL CULTIVATION IN CHAPARE BE REFERRED TO AS "TRADITIONAL" (MOST CULTIVATION IN THAT REGION IS LESS THAN TWENTY YEARS OLD, A GOOD PROPORTION LESS THAN FIVE). EXPLICIT GOAL OF GOB POLICY TO REDUCE CULTIVATION TO LEVELS NOT TO EXCEED TRADITIONAL DEMAND FOR CHEWING AND PHARMACEUTICAL USE WILL REMAIN AS CONTAINED IN EXISTING LAW.

4. REFERENCES TO DIRECT COMPENSATION TO FARMERS WILL BE ELIMINATED, AS WILL DIRECT OR INDIRECT INFERENCES THAT FARMERS WILL RECEIVE COMPENSATION OR AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE WHICH WILL PERMIT THEM TO MAINTAIN THE LEVEL OF INCOME THEY RECEIVED FROM ILLICIT CULTIVATION OF COCA. SPECIFICALLY, ALL INFERENCES THAT LARGE COCA PRODUCERS (I.E., COMMERCIAL VICE SUBSISTENCE) WILL RECEIVE PROPORTIONAL BENEFITS FROM CROP SUBSTITUTION WILL BE ELIMINATED, SINCE WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF PARTICIPATING IN A DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WHICH WILL SO REWARD THE LARGER VIOLATORS OF BOLIVIA'S (OR PERU'S) INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS.

5. IN PLACE OF SUCH POLICIES, LAW WILL INSTEAD SPEAK IN GENERAL TERMS OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC/AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT WHICH WILL HELP AFFECTED FARMERS IN THE AREA SUPPORT THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES. DETAILS OF ILLICIT CROP SUBSTITUTION OR OTHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS WILL BE CONTAINED IN A COCA REDUCTION PLAN EMBASSY LA PAZ IS WORKING UP WITH THE GOB, AND WHICH WILL BE REFERRED TO IN THE LAW (RATHER THAN INCLUDING THE DETAILS IN THE LAW ITSELF). PLAN WILL BE REFERRED TO AS A MULTI-YEAR ENDEAVOR, RATHER THAN AN ANNUAL, RENEWABLE EXERCISE. (WHILE WE HOPED TO ELIMINATE ALL DETAILS RELATING TO ERADICATION STRATEGY FROM THE LAW, AT GOB URGING WE AGREED TO LET STAND EXISTING REFEFENCE TO PLAN THAT LARGE PLOTS OVER ONE HECTARE WILL BE FIRST TARGETS, TO BE FOLLOWED BY THOSE BETWEEN ONE HALF AND ONE HECTARE.)

6. DIRECT CONNECTION BETWEEN PRODES (BOLIVIA'S CROP SUBSTITUTION AGENCY) AND THE COCA REDUCTION OBJECTIVES WILL BE ELIMINATED, THUS AVOIDING THE IMPLICATION THAT COCA ERADICATION DEPENDS UPON PRODES' ABILITIES TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE ALTERNATIVE INCOMES. ELIMINATION FURTHER MEETS PRODES' DESIRE TO AVOID LINKAGE WITH ERADICATION SINCE IT BELIEVES A LINK WOULD HURT ITS EFFECTIVENESS. (SUCCESS OF THE COCA REDUCATION PROGRAM OBVIOUSLY TO SOME DEGREE IS DEPENDENT UPON AN EFFECTIVE QUOTE CARROT UNQUOTE, BUT WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT DESIRABLE TO CODIFY THIS IN THE LAW.)

7. FOR LA PAZ: PLEASE INFO LIMA ON ANY SUBSEQUENT MESSAGES TO THE DEPARTMENT RELATING TO CHANGES IN THE BOLIVIAN NARCOTICS LAW. STOESSEL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY EBRoot DATE 1/2018
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
FA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

DECISION